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DIRECTOR'S COPY

NSC BRIEFING

LONG FORM

28 September 1960

MOSCOW AND PEKING PROPAGANDA TREATMENT
OF MAJOR SPEECHES AT THE 15th UNGA SESSION

- I. President's speech, summarized by TASS in 600 words, given usual tendentious treatment by Soviet media.
 - A. Moscow used TASS report for foreign-language broadcasts, while home service carried shortened version.
 1. Government newspaper Izvestia published full text (unusual but not unprecedented coverage of a Presidential pronouncement).
 2. Party organ, Pravda, which carried full text of Nkrumah's speech, published only summary of President's.
 - B. Moscow disparages the speech as "colorless," "mere sophistry," "disappointing," and "nothing new."
 1. Stated on 24 September, "one can hardly escape the impression that statesmanship is on an indefinite leave of absence from Washington."
 2. Most favorable observation was that "many people" noted the "entirely quiet and restrained tone" of the speech. (This statement appeared only in a talk for foreign audiences; it was deleted from home service version of same commentary.
 3. Soviet media have not picked up Khrushchev's impromptu remark that speech was "conciliatory."
 - C. Some 50 Moscow radio commentaries elaborated TASS criticism.
 1. TASS reported that President advanced "so-called" five-point program for Africa; commentators said the African delegates seemed bored and that "the aid proposed by the United States is insignificant."

DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS

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CLASS. CHANGED BY: TS S C

REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HA 70-2

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REVIEWER: 3720x4

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D. TASS said President "virtually buried" idea of general and complete disarmament.

II. Peiping reported briefly on 23 September that President gave "a long speech," followed up later in day with heavily slanted 1,200-word account--twice as long as TASS's and much more denunciatory.

A. Chinese account says President devoted more than half speech to "advocating the US Government's policy of aggression against Africa through continued, intensified use of the UN."

B. Radio Peiping broadcast a truncated version of this story to domestic and a few foreign audiences--typical handling of a Presidential statement.

III. Khrushchev speech given unprecedented publicity by Moscow.

A. Some 400 Moscow radio items publicizing Khrushchev's speech in three days after it was delivered.

1. More than twice the publicity given his UNGA speech last year.

2. Greater attention than Moscow has ever paid any Khrushchev speech.

B. Moscow broadcast the text "live" in the home and regional services, and, following customary practice, beamed summaries to foreign audiences.

C. Speech termed a "bold new peace initiative" that drew "wide acclaim" from world public opinion, caused "confusion and alarm" in Western "ruling circles."

1. The "greater part" of the US press is said to have made a concerted effort to minimize the import of the speech.

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- D. Most commentaries, including Pravda's 26 September editorial, focus on disarmament and proposal for liquidation of colonialism.
 - 1. Comparatively little attention has been given his proposals for changing UN structure and moving UN headquarters.

IV. Other bloc countries have followed Soviet line except Communist China, whose handling reflects current Sino-Soviet differences.

- A. Apparently still suspicious of Khrushchev's intentions toward West, Peiping has so far made no comment whatever on the speech.
- B. Official New China News Agency did issue 1,600-word summary, including all of Khrushchev's major points, but did no editorializing.
 - 1. This summary reprinted in ChiCom press and broadcast in greatly shortened form in domestic and foreign-language news programs.
- C. Summary reports Khrushchev's remarks on UN membership for Communist China.
 - 1. On 27 September, Peiping commentary attacking "US campaign of hostility and slander against China" said nothing about Soviet move to get China admitted.

V. Moscow and Peiping treatment of other leaders' speeches contains few surprises.

- A. Moscow gave Tito more objective treatment than President, with stress on Tito's plea for disarmament.
 - 1. Peiping denounces Yugoslav bitterly, ignores his approval of ChiCom UN membership.

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B. Castro and Nkrumah got second play to Khrushchev in Moscow radio output.

1. Castro summary got 2500 words, Nkrumah 1300 (in contrast Czech leader Novotny and Albanian premier Shehu got 5-600 each, about same as President).
2. Peiping on 28 September applauded Castro's speech as a "powerful indictment of US aggression against Cuba" in 1280 word summary.

C. Of Hammarskjold speech Monday, Moscow radio said simply that he "made a statement in reply to the sharp criticisms of his activity in relation to the Congo."

1. Added later that response to Hammarskjold's "attempted justification" of his actions was "light titter" in the hall.

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